

REMARKS

Claims 10-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 10 is amended. No new matter is added by this Amendment. Reconsideration of the application based upon the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 2, objects to claim 10 for informalities. Claim 10 has been amended to obviate the informality. Accordingly, reconsideration of the objection of claim 10 for informalities is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendment is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 4, rejects claims 10, 13, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,847,819 to Yanagi. Additionally, the Office Action, in paragraph 6, rejects claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagi in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,709,146 to Reitsema. Claims 14 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,608,220 to Wieser et al. (hereinafter "Wieser"). Additionally, claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanagi in view of JP-A-09-197177 to Hironori et al. (hereinafter "Hironori"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The Office Action asserts that Yanagi teaches a collimating lens common to the first and second sources arranged at an intersection of the first incident beam and of the second

beam. The Office Action asserts that "it is herein considered that overlapping beams are a form of intersection," so as to interpret Yanagi, as illustrated by Fig. 1, to teach the feature, as positively recited in the pending claims, that the collimating lens is arranged at the intersection of the first incident beam and of the second beam. This assertion is incorrect.

MPEP §2111.01 states that "[i]f extrinsic reference sources, such as dictionaries, evidence more than one definition for the term, the intrinsic record must be consulted to identify which of the different possible definitions is most consistent with applicant's use of the terms." Applicants respectfully submit that the alternative definition provided in the Office Action, regarding intersection, contradicts the Applicants' intended meaning of the word. Specifically, the intrinsic record, paragraphs [0028] and [0029] of the Applicants' disclosure, which provide support for the claimed feature of the disposition of the collimating lens, refers to Figs. 8 and 9 which clearly illustrate the intended meaning of the term intersection. Therefore, the Office Action attempts to adopt an improper meaning of the term intersection, contrary to the intent of the Applicants, in asserting that the applied reference of Yanagi teaches the many features as positively recited in the pending claims.

The applied references of Reitsema, Wieser and Hironori do not overcome the deficiencies, as identified above with respect to the applied reference of Yanagi, as applied to at least the subject matter of pending claim 10.

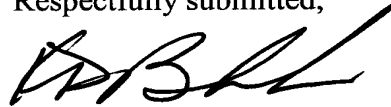
For at least the above reasons, the applied prior art references, cannot reasonably be considered to teach, or to have suggested, the combinations of all the features recited in at least independent claim 10. Further, claims 11-18 would also not have been suggested by the applied prior art references for at least the respective dependence of these claims on allowable independent claim 10, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 10-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of applied prior art references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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